

QUESTIONS

1. The bill we are considering proposes an increase in the maximum payment of compensation to \$685 from the current maximum of \$525 per month. We note that this is an increase of \$160 and that it has been 16 years since the current maximum of \$525 was established. It might help us all if we knew something more about the way the current maximum was reached in 1949 and how the proposed limit of \$685 was determined.

a. What was the philosophy or theory under which the \$525 maximum limitation was established?

b. Can you tell us what grade levels this covered on an equal basis, or putting it in other words, through what grade levels was a disabled worker assured of at least his take-home pay?

c. Do we assume that the proposed maximum of \$685 takes into consideration the many changes in salary rates that have occurred since 1949 and that the proposed limit of \$685 would have about the same affect on Federal employees today as the \$525 maximum had in 1949?

d. Can you tell us whether there has been a change in philosophy or has some other yardstick been used in establishing the \$685 figure proposed in H.R. 10721?

e. What is your personal opinion as to whether all employees should be treated equally with respect to the receipt of compensation?

f. What maximum limit would be needed to at least cover the grade levels originally covered by the \$525 in 1949?

2. a. What maximum dollar amount do you feel would be needed to assure all employees of equal treatment with respect to the payment of disability or survivorship benefits.

b. Can you estimate for us how much more it would cost to cover adequately those additional employees whose compensation would exceed \$685?

3. May a disabled Federal employee be eligible for compensation benefits under the FECA as well as for retirement benefits--for disability retirement or for retirement for age?

4. Is there any distinction between the various Federal retirement systems now in effect for Federal employees with respect to the receipt of concurrent benefits under the FECA?